

Message Text

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TAGS: PINS PINT ECON PGOV PBOR BF

SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. BAHAMAS NOT READY FOR CARIFTA OR COMMON MARKET

AS THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY INDICATED, THE BAHAMAS IS NOT CONSIDERING JOINING EITHER CARIFTA OR THE CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET (SEE NASSAU A-130). THE BAHAMIAN POSITION WAS REITERATED AND AMPLIFIED BY PRIME MINISTER PINDLING IN AN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN AIR JAMAICA'S INFLIGHT MAGAZINE, "SKY WRITINGS". AS LONG AS THE BAHAMAS REMAINS A NON-PRODUCING AREA, SUCH MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE CONTEMPLATED. WHEN THE COUNTRY STARTS PRODUCING MORE " THERE MAY WELL BE REASON TO RETHINK THE SITUATION". SPECIFICALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER CITED THE TIME WHEN BAHAMIAN REFINERIES BEGIN PRODUCING DIESEL OIL, GASOLINE AND COOKING GAS ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS.

MR. PINDLING CITED TWO BASIC REASONS -- FISCAL/MONETARY AND LABOR -- FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO JOIN A COMMON MARKET. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FREE MOVEMENT OF LABOR WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THE GOVERNMENT'S

BAHAMIANIZATION PROGRAM. "ON THE FISCAL AND MONETARY SIDE", THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, "WE ARE JUST ABOUT ESTABLISHING OUR OWN SITUATION AND I THINK WE WOULD WANT THAT SITUATION TO TAKE HOLD FIRST, BEFORE WE TAKE ANY STEP THAT MIGHT INVOLVE A MONETARY UNION."

2. LAW OF THE SEA

IN THE SAME INTERVIEW QUOTED ABOVE, PRIME MINISTER PINDLING DISCUSSED THE "VERY IMPORTANT" QUESTION OF LAW OF THE SEA, WHICH HE SAID WOULD HAVE A "POWERFUL INFLUENCE" ON THE BAHAMIAN ECONOMY. PINDLING SAID THAT THE GOBI WAS ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE AND THAT "WE HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A VERY MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THAT CONFERENCE, AND TO EXPLAIN OUR POSTURE TO THE WORLD BODY AND IN DOING SO WE THINK THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW NOT ONLY THE LOGIC OF THE CASE BUT THE NECESSITY OF THE CASE" FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO THEORY'S APPLICATION TO THE BAHAMAS. PINDLING CITED THE FIJIS AS A PARTIAL PRECEDENT AND DECLARED THAT "OUR POSITION WILL BE NOT LESS THAN THREE OR MORE THAN TWELVE AROUND THE WHOLE GROUP OF ISLANDS."

3. UN APPLICATION

FOUR HOURS AFTER THE NEW BAHAMIAN FLAG WAS RAISED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT CLIFFORD PARK, THE GOBI FORMALLY APPLIED FOR U. N. MEMBERSHIP. THE GOBI ANTICIPATES THAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON ITS APPLICATION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF JULY. THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS SAID FRANCE WOULD SUPPORT THE APPLICATION. THE BAHAMAS WILL PROBABLY BE NOMINATED BY THE U.K. AS JULY'S SECURITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, AND SECONDED BY THE U.S.

4. DYNAMITE MISSING ON ABACO

BAHAMIAN OLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE THEFT OF 100 CASES OF DYNAMITE ON ABACO JULY 11. EACH CASE CONTAINED 60 STICKS. THE DYNAMITE WAS STOLEN FROM A LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BUT REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN KEPT UNDER GOVERNMENT LOCK AND KEY SINCE LAST JULY, WHEN A SERIES OF UNEXPLAINED EXPLOSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCURRED DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN VISIT BY PM PINDLING.

5. PERSONNEL CHANGES

A. LEONARD J. KNOWLES WAS SWORN IN AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE BAHAMAS JULY 4.

B. HUGH SANDS HAS RESIGNED AS PERMANENT SECRETARY TO THE MIN-

ISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO WORK FOR BARCLAY'S BANK. SANDS, WHO WAS HIGHLY REGARDED, APPARENTLY BECAME IMPATIENT WITH CONSTANT POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND CONFLICTING CHAINS OF COMMAND. WITH A TEACHER SHORTAGE AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS, SANDS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MISSED.

C. LIVINGSTON B. JOHNSON, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., WILL ALSO SERVE AS BAHAMIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N.

D. THE LAST TWO EXPATRIATE PERMANENT SECRETARIES IN THE GOBI, ARTHUR K. WRIGHT IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND CLARENCE P. ERSKINE-LINDOP IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, HAVE RESIGNED. THEIR CONTRACTS WERE "BOUGHT OUT" BY THE GOBI IN ORDER TO BAHAMIANIZE THE CIVIL SERVICE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES, HANNA IS NOW DOING TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR WHAT HE DID TO THE PRIVATE.
SPEAR

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